MEMOIRS

OF

Mr. James B——d.

[Price 1s. 6d.]

BRITISH MUSEUM

K. B—d.

MEMOIRS

OF

Mr. James Bollan—d,

Late Officer to the Sheriff of Middlesex,

Candidate for CITY MARSHAL,

And now under Sentence of Death in Newgate, for Forgery.

Illustrated with several other Characters, equally *notorious* and entertaining; and a particular Account of the Transaction for which he was capitally convicted: The whole calculated to expose the Artifices made use of, to impose on the Ignorant, Credulous and Unwary.

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M,DCC,LXXII.

To the PUBLIC.

SOME of our readers may ſuppoſe, that the following pages were wrote with an ill-natured deſign, to blacken the character of Mr. B——d, whoſe whole behaviour through life has indeed been ſo uniformly bad, that if we had been ſo diſpoſed, it has left us no room for ill-natured reflections. We aſſure them, that our ſole intention in publiſhing theſe Memoirs, was to hold up to the public the picture of a villain, expert in

every

every roguiſh act, and thereby prevent the unwary from falling a dupe to the artifices of men, whoſe only reputation (if it may be ſo called) is for being ſuperlatively infamous.

We may perhaps be called upon, to know the reaſon why we ſhould publiſh his Memoirs before the ſentence of the law had been executed on him? To which we anſwer, that as our deſign was to be of public utility, we thought this the moſt proper ſeaſon, when the town was ſo much alarmed with his being brought to juſtice, as it would by that means paſs through many more hands than if publiſhed later, and therefore more likely to anſwer the ſalutary end propoſed.

Though the papers put into our hands would enable us to give an account of many more perſons concerned, yet we ſhall only mention thoſe who are ſo intimately connected with this work, that it would be impoſſible to explain many circumſtances

ſtances without introducing them into it; we ſhall even be tender of them, wiſhing that not only they, but every other of his acquaintance, may take warning by his fate, and amend their lives, and he therefore not die in vain.

As example is much more prevalent than precept, it is hoped, that as theſe ſheets, by expoſing his arts, may preſerve many unwary people from falling into the ſnares of deſigning men, ſo alſo they may be a leſſon to thoſe who tread the paths of iniquity, and prove to them, that however ſucceſsful they may be in their villainies for months, nay even years, yet juſtice, however ſlow, is ſure at laſt to overtake them.

To inſtance every artifice that he has made uſe of to deceive, even his very beſt friends, and defraud the public, would exceed the limits of our plan; we ſhall

therefore preſent our readers with a general account of his tranſactions, and point out only ſuch as are the moſt remarkable, and may ſerve to illuſtrate his character, and be a caution to the credulous.

MEMOIRS

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OF

Mr. James B——d.

THE public may perhaps desire to be acquainted with the parentage of our hero; though no ways necessary to our plan, we are happy to have it in our power to gratify their curiosity. He is the son of a butcher in ——shire, and was bred to the same business; we might here take notice of the many reflections that are thrown out against him when 'prentice, of his inhumanity to the brute species; but this would evidently prove our intention ill-natured.

His firſt appearance in life, for himſelf, was in ſetting up in the above buſineſs, in a ſhop the corner of Falcon-Court, facing St. George's Church, in the Borough of Southwark, and at one time carryed on a pretty extenſive trade; but his vices (which have now brought him to his preſent unhappy condition) ſoon began to hamper his circumſtances: he was fond of gaming, and was always to be found the foremoſt in all the races within fifty miles of London, in which his ſucceſs was not equal to the diligence with which he purſued them; his loſs of time was alſo ſenſibly felt by him, his buſineſs being neglected, conſequently fell off, and he ſoon found himſelf under the neceſſity of quitting it, for a very good reaſon—as it had almoſt quitted him.

There never perhaps was a man ſo fond of bragging and making a figure, as he was always endeavouring to appear above his circumſtances; the following little ſtory of him (however trifling) may ſerve to ſhew his very mean pride:

Our hero's circumſtances in buſineſs were latterly, as we obſerved, in a declining way, and of courſe money ſhort; his credit too, none of the beſt; no truſt was therefore to be

be expected from the carcaſe-butcher or ſaleſman. What could he do? he hated to ſee his ſhop empty on a Saturday; he thought it reflected on him, he had therefore recourſe to a droll expedient:—the inner part of his ſhop was hung full of joints of meat, very naturally painted for the purpoſe, and, when enquired after by a cuſtomer, were ſaid to be already ſold.

At laſt he entirely quitted trade, being without credit or cuſtom, and having every requiſite, viz. inhumanity, avarice, lying, prevarication, cunning, double-dealing, &c. that could *adorn* the breaſt of a modern bailiff, thought himſelf duly qualified, and therefore doubted not of ſucceſs in the very *honourable* and lucrative employment of a Sheriff's officer.

He therefore applied to the Sheriffs of Surry, and on giving the uſual ſecurities of bondſmen, (which he never was at a loſs to procure) he was admitted an officer to the Sheriff of Surry. His long acquaintance with many *gentlemen* of the ſame profeſſion, and the ſeveral difficulties he had been in himſelf, gave him a tolerable inſight into the buſineſs——a buſineſs that has been the intire ruin of many honeſt perſons in diſtreſſed

circumſtances. It is not thoſe in affluent circumſtances, who feed fat theſe peſts of ſociety, though it muſt indeed be owned ſometimes uſeful men; they are above their arts, and therefore ſcorn any connections with them; it is only thoſe who, fearing the iron hand of unrelenting creditors, become their prey, and buy their favours at a golden rate; it is not the allowance that the law makes them, the caption fee, (10s.) that could enable theſe harpies to figure in the manner they do, keep livery ſervants, horſes and country houſes; it is the bribe extorted from the unfortunate that enables them to enter into every extravagance, and even outſhine men of birth, fortune and character.

But we ſhall not enlarge any farther on this head, or point out how many have acquired fortunes in this very lucrative employment; the legiſlature begins to ſee through the ill policy of arreſts for debt, according to the preſent mode; and it is not therefore doubted, but as they ſo plainly ſee the evil, they will in their great wiſdom be as ready to redreſs it.

But to return to our hero.—Being now inducted into office, his firſt care was to look out for a houſe fit for his purpoſe, to carry his

his priſoners to, as that alone was the way to make money like the reſt of his brethren; he only laughed at the caption fee, and gave it commonly to his follower; he aimed at higher game; luckily the large houſe at the bottom of the court, (Falcon-court) at the corner of which he kept his ſhop, was to let; this he took and entered immediately, and having married a ſecond wife, (his firſt now ſaid to be living, and in the workhouſe in Bermondſey,) the ſiſter to Capt. MacN-m-r, in the India ſervice, he began to figure away in his new calling.

The houſe he took in Falcon-court was a ſpacious manſion, (now divided into two dwellings) and was immediately furniſhed and fitted up as a ſpunging-houſe, (a very proper term); here he brought his priſoners, thoſe who had any money left from their misfortunes; for the poor, he ſeldom troubled his head about them: his houſe was calculated only for thoſe who could pay a great deal of money for a very little civility; they were welcome to ſtay (if their money held out) all the long vacation, and if, on the return of the writ, they went to priſon, the reluctance which he expreſſed, when he parted with them, was always ſincere.

Gaming being a favourite amuſement (nay almoſt a trade) of his, having a large yard to his houſe, he had furniſhed it with every pretty play-thing it would admit of: he had made a curious ſet of nine-pins, with an elegant aſſortment of marbles for taw: when night came on to prevent theſe diverſions, there were cards in the houſe to ſupply their loſs. By the above means, he commonly *eaſed* his priſoners of their ready caſh and trinkets, ſuch as watches, rings, &c. &c. and as he was maſter of their perſons, and they fearful, after the four and twenty hours, of being ſent to priſon, no notice was ever taken if he ſlipped a card, or ſtood to the mark at taw or ſkittles; like the monarch of the Eaſt, his will was a law, *ſic volo ſic jubeo*; to priſon inſtantly with the murmurers; it was therefore always held good policy to be ſilent, and, to avoid the horrors conceived of confinement in a priſon, to ſuffer infinitely more in a villainous ſpunging-houſe.

However lucrative his buſineſs, and the many *douceurs* attending it, yet he had ſo many vices to drain him of his money, that even theſe very great ſupplies (by which many of his brethren have ſaved fortunes) were unequal to his wants: he therefore ran in debt pretty conſiderably, and, unable to

ſupport himſelf any longer on his legs, he thought of a ſtatute, (the uſual reſource of the fraudulent) and having always a number of people ready to prove him one, he at length got himſelf declared a bankrupt, (being ſure of number and value to procure him a certificate) after having made a proper diſpoſal of his furniture and other effects.

The numberleſs pranks he had played in the county of Surry, had loſt him a great deal of buſineſs, even as an officer; the attorneys in general complaining of his behaviour, had employed other bailiffs, he therefore thought it beſt to change his ſituation to the county of Middleſex——a larger field for him to diſplay his talents in, and therefore not ſo eaſy to be detected.

It is ſurprizing that men, who are notorious for every wickedneſs to the obtaining wealth, ſhould always meet with friends, whilſt the honeſt, induſtrious poor ſhould be ſhunned on every ſide. Bondſmen were procured to the ſheriff of Middleſex, and he ſoon ſaw himſelf an officer on this ſide the water; an unlucky circumſtance for many an honeſt man and his family.

As his credit was not great, as heretofore, he was obliged to be contented to live in a lower

lower degree, and therefore took a houſe in the Savoy, where, however good his inclinations might be, he had not the opportunities of ſhining as a villain in ſo exalted a ſphere as in the county of Surry: however he gained ground, by profeſſing his attachment to the intereſt of his employers, and, being pretty much in company, wriggled himſelf into buſineſs; but as vice ſeems to be an innate principle in his compoſition, we ſhall not wonder if he did not forget himſelf.

A gentleman whom he met with, (whether at the gaming-table or horſe-race we cannot ſay, for there the *pole-catcher* and the gentleman are on a footing, as dice, like death, levels all diſtinctions,) employed him to arreſt an officer belonging to an Eaſt-Indiaman juſt ready for ſailing, for the ſum of three hundred pounds, and, being obliged to go into the country, he left the management thereof intirely to him, promiſing him at the ſame time a handſome preſent if he met with the defendant. What a lucky hit! Our hero promiſed him to make the affair his own, (and ſo he did as the ſequel will ſhew) and to ſet about it with unremitted diligence, which he actually did, and met with his man; but however the plaintiff, after ſome ſtay, returned to London, but unfortunately for him,

and

and lucky for our champion, not till after the ſhip had ſailed on her voyage, which was a trading one, and therefore not ſuppoſed to return in leſs than three years.

He went immediately to know the ſucceſs of his buſineſs, and whether he had touched his man; but he was made acquainted, with a very ſerious face, that every ſcheme and artifice had been made uſe of, no trouble whatſoever ſpared, and then told a hundred ſtale tricks that he ſaid they had made uſe of to nap him, but all would not do: the follower was called in, and though he knew nothing about the matter, he took the hint from his maſter, and ſwore to every thing he ſaid, added a great deal more of his own, and ſwore to the truth of the whole.

What wonder if the gentleman was deceived, and rewarded both the maſter and man for their trouble, and particular attention to his ſervice? What man but might have done the ſame, unleſs by admonition pre-acquainted with their lies and perjuries?

But, however, the return of the ſhip, at the expiration of the time, and alſo of the defendant, ſoon convinced him what little

credit is to be given to the word, or even the oath, of a ſheriff's officer and his crew.

Another acton was taken out, and the attorney gave the warrant (our hero being at a horſe-race) to another officer, and the party was eaſily had, (for the ſaid ſum of three hundred pounds) when he was ſurprized at being arreſted for a debt which he had already diſcharged, and produced, to ratify what he advanced, our hero's receipt for the debt and coſts. It may eaſily be imagined how thunderſtruck the plaintiff was at the treatment he had received, and alſo that which he had offered (though ignorantly) to the defendant; the matter was very ſoon cleared up, and an action brought againſt the ſubject of theſe memoirs, who, with his uſual honeſty, went every length the law would admit, gave the gentleman as much trouble, and put him to as much expence as the caſe would allow of, though in the end they were ſure to fall on himſelf; but, as he had a number of theſe affairs on his hands, he thought thereby to gain as much time as poſſible, and as he was ſure of a priſon at laſt, to ſtay out of it as long as he could. In ſhort, after he had gone as great lengths as poſſible, he was ſurrendered, in execution, by his bail, and, by a *Habeas Corpus*, moved himſelf to the Fleet.

Here

Here it was he became acquainted with Mr. Robert H——y, with whom he was ſome time ſince engaged in a paper war, to the no ſmall entertainment and inſtruction of the public, as they were thereby let into many ſecrets which could not but be highly advantageous for them to know.

Mr. Holl—y was his chum (bed-fellow) in the Fleet, where he experienced many hardſhips, being often without a meal, or money to buy one; for his *quondam* friends, finding him unable to make retaliation, after very ſhort time forſook him, and left him to ſink or ſwim as well as he could. The Fives-ground indeed (for even in a priſon he could not leave off gaming) was now and then of ſervice to him; the unwary were every one his prey, and he had the good luck to meet with ſome of them in the Fleet; for he had no other ſubſiſtance than what he could raiſe by play. Indeed his wife (whom in juſtice we muſt confeſs, from her many amiable qualities, deſerved a better huſband) did all ſhe could for him, but, in acknowledgment for all her kindneſs, ſhe never met with any return but ill-language, and very often a beating: indeed his general behaviour to her, when out of priſon, was very ill-becoming him; but what could be expected from a man

who knew no pity, and was a ſtranger to every tender feeling.

Women were among the number of his vices; to them indeed he may in ſome meaſure lay his guilt, as his iniquities were very often to furniſh their extravagance; for as he had nothing to recommend him to their notice, (being a very illiterate man) it will not be wondered at, that they ſhould oblige him to make up, in money, whatever engaging qualities he might want in himſelf. Mrs. B——d often uſed to expoſtulate with him on this head, (for his amours were not unknown to her) but all her advice was but thrown away upon him; he was deaf to reproof, and very often gave her, in exchange for her regard for his welfare, only abuſe and blows. Though a bailiff, (a ſtation in this country, and in every other, looked on as the meaneſt of all employments, and to which even infamy is in ſome meaſure attached,) yet he had all the vices attendant on the great; he kept women and horſes, gamed, drank, and was as extravagantly wicked as any man could well be; and as money will, in this country, admit a man into almoſt any company, however infamous his character, our readers will not be ſurprized if we ſhould tell them, that a bailiff, a pole-catcher, a man

man alſo of an infamous character, and publicly known as ſuch, ſhould often be found in company of men of worth and reputation.

It were a pity that the public do not pay a greater attention to their company than is generally done; for, on the ſanction of their intimacy, men, who would very juſtly be pointed out as infamous, are exempt even from contempt, nay more, are received into ſociety and treated as equals, when they ought to be deſpiſed by every honeſt man, and avoided, as peſts to the community: yet, alas! ſuch is the magic of gold, that it has power to reconcile the greateſt abſurdities, and frequently to level the peer with the blackguard.

His long continuance in priſon was very unlucky for a man of his active diſpoſition and fertile genius; but all his efforts to extricate himſelf were fruitleſs, and he was doomed to do penance for his crimes, by impriſonment, until the act of inſolvency, when he was to be white-waſhed, and appeared as a new man.

We wiſh we could ſay that he was intirely to be freed, at the ſame time, from his vices, as

as well as his debts; but that reformation can never be expected from a priſon; bad, but no good, effects are ever to be perceived from thoſe who have been confined in one; huddled together in a ſmall ſpace, they are generally acquainted with each other, and, by being together, only improve upon one another's vices; each one recapitulates the ſchemes he has made uſe of to cheat his creditors, and evade the laws; others, again, plan ſchemes to defraud the public, when once again at large, which are generally improved upon by their comrades, and too often put in practice when they get their liberty. "Evil communication always corrupts good manners:" nay, even thoſe who have gone into a priſon, unknowing in the vices of the town, have generally come out with the moſt corrupted morals; and thoſe who have gone in little ſinners, have come out great rogues. It is a pity ſome method cannot be deviſed to prevent the impriſonment of debtors, as the remedy, intended by confinement, has been proved, in general, to be much worſe than the diſeaſe.

When the legiſlature thinks proper to paſs an act of inſolvency, the fraudulent with the unfortunate equally partake the clemency of government, though intended only to aſſiſt the honeſt diſtreſſed, whom the revengeful creditor

creditor had confined to a priſon, and there inhumanly kept; yet the rogue alſo, for whoſe puniſhment perpetual impriſonment would almoſt be too light, avails himſelf of the offerred mercy, and launches forth again into the world for prey, like the lion, ſeeking whom he may devour.

Being cleared of his debts, by delivering up all his effects, (which he had no great trouble in doing) *he* had the world to begin a-freſh; if he had no money, he owed none: it was, it is ſuppoſed, to this reaſon that he met with ſo many friends at his entrance again into life; for he was no ſooner at large, but by a well-wrought ſtory, and cajoling a Mr. W———n, of St. George's-fields, he perſuaded him to furniſh for him a houſe which he took in Great Shire-lane, Carey-ſtreet, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

Freſh bonds were again procured to be given to the ſheriff, and we now once more ſee him an officer to the ſheriff of Middleſex. The houſe he had taken made indeed a genteel appearance, being free from thoſe inſignia of a ſpunging-houſe, *iron bars*; it had a pleaſant garden, and very luckily a dead wall, admirably calculated for the game of fives, in which he had very much improved himſelf

himſelf during his reſidence in the Fleet: here he began to diſplay the meridian luſtre of his abilities; his other pranks were but petty larceny, compared to what he put in practice in Shire-lane; though it would be wondered at if, after being ſo long a ſheriff's officer, and ſometime a priſoner in the Fleet, he ſhould not have improved his extraordinary genius for roguery.

To avoid any unneceſſary trouble with his gueſts about the expences of breakfaſt, dinner and ſupper, he fixed it at ſix ſhillings *per diem*; eat or not it muſt be paid, or priſon was the word: a ſervant man in livery waited at table, and a ſide-board of plate greeted the eyes of the unfortunate confined, and an elegance was attempted, to which he was as much a ſtranger as to the many amiable qualities that do honour to humanity.

If a queſtion was put to him, as, "How he thought his priſoners, already in diſtreſs, could afford ſix ſhillings a day merely for eating, beſides the continual cry of—come, won't you give us a bottle of Hock or Madeira?" his repeated anſwer was, "What have I to do with that? If they don't like it, why don't they go to gaol?"

Beginning the world a-freſh, without any load of debts on his ſhoulders, enabled him for ſome time to live without much dunning from his friends, who very generouſly gave him time to turn himſelf about before they thought of applying for their money; but, after waiting a conſiderable time, and he making a ſplendid figure, they thought it proper to put him in mind: ſome he amuſed with fine ſtories; others, that would not take words for their goods, got part of their money; but his very good friend, who furniſhed his houſe, fell a dupe to his own credulity, and was fairly chouſed out of the whole, to the amount of two hundred pounds. Grateful reward of friendſhip!

The united profits of his *houſe*, *wines*, *punch*, (contrary to the act againſt ſelling of ſpirits in ſpunging-houſes) *gaming*, of which he made not a trifle of his priſoners, together with the caption fees, and his immoderate charge for bail bonds, exacting always one guinea for every hundred for which the priſoner was charged in the writ, though the ſheriff does not allow any officer to demand even five and three-pence for any ſum, howevever large it may be; even all theſe, with the bribes that he received for arreſts, and alſo to prevent them, were not ſufficient for his extravagance;

he was always in ſome ſcrape or other about the property of people, which he had illegally detained in his hands; on all ſides, he was complained of for his want of truth and candour; yet, though ſo univerſally known as a bad character, no officer perhaps had half the buſineſs to tranſact which he had. The verge of the court, however ſacred, was of no ſervice; no protection to the unfortunate, if the plaintiff would but fee him accordingly; nay, it is not dobted but he had impudence enough to have arreſted any perſon at court, if he had found an employer: but his raſhneſs ſeveral times met with its deſert; he was ſummoned more than once before the board of green cloth, and a gentleman whom he had arreſted in the verge, diſcharged out of the cuſtody of the ſheriff to ſettle the matter, and he obliged by the plaintiff to make good the debt.

About three years ago he gave a proof of his want of even common honeſty, in his dealings with two of his very intimate friends, D———, his jackall, and Le B——, an attorney.

D——— had by ſome means (not ſuppoſed to be very honeſt ones) got into poſſeſſion of a pocket-book, which contained a bill of thirty

thirty pounds on a gentleman of worth and character, to whom it was preſented, but payment refuſed, the gentleman declaring it was picked out of his pocket; a method was therefore to be deviſed how to recover the ſame: our hero and Le B—— entered into a ſcheme with D——, to take out an action againſt the ſaid gentleman, and, on obtaining the money, they agreed among themſelves to divide it equally, 10l. each: the gentleman was therefore made acquainted, that unleſs he immediately paid the bill, an action would be brought againſt him; in anſwer to which he ſaid, that they might bring their action whenever they would, and that he would defend it; but deſired, if they did, that they would leave it at his attorney's, near Chancery-lane, who would immediately put in bail to it: this was not what they wanted; they thought, by taking his perſon, they might perhaps, by ſome means, get hold of the money, and therefore a writ was taken out, and by ſending the gentleman word, a perſon would be glad to ſpeak to him at the King's-arms Tavern, in Bridge-ſtreet, he came, and was arreſted for the ſaid ſum of thirty pounds.

The gentleman expreſſed his ſurprize at the arreſt, as he had acquainted the holder

of the bill, that his attorney would put in bail, on notice being ſent to him of an action being taken out: our hero pretended to be ignorant of the affair, and, ſympathiſing with the gentleman, told him, that if detaining him would be of any ſort of prejudice, he had only to leave the amount of the debt and coſts in his hands, and then he might put in bail, and have his money returned; that he looked on him as a gentleman, and ſhould therefore treat him as ſuch.

The gentleman ſwallowed the bait, and left money, in his hands, ſufficient to diſcharge the debt and coſts; the next day the gentleman (by his attorney) called on him to put in bail, and have his money returned, when he gave for anſwer, that the money paid him, by the gentleman, was to diſcharge the bill and coſts, and that he knew nothing about bail being to be put in, and ſhould therefore not trouble his head about it. The attorney was at a loſs to account for the gentleman's behaviour, not ſuſpecting his; but on ſeeing the gentleman, he was aſſured that he had only left the money in his hands as a ſecurity. He returned again to our hero, when he ſtill perſiſted in his ſtory; the attorney, now doubting his veracity, aſked him for the bill, as he had got the money—which, alas!

alas! he could not produce; for this whole tranſaction had been kept a ſecret from his very worthy friends, Meſſrs. Le B—— and D——, and all his attempts to get the bill out of D——'s hands without a conſideration (for they knew they could not truſt him) were ineffectual: what could be done? he had made uſe of the money, and therefore could not give each of them his ſhare, and they would not truſt. The attorney finding it a juggle, (for he had called on Le B——, the attorney employed, but never could meet with him) moved the Court of King's Bench againſt the holder of the bill, D——, the attorney, Le B——, and our unfortunate hero, who, after uſing every artifice the law would admit of, the depoſit money was returned, and they were obliged to pay, not only their own, but the plaintiff's coſts, which amounted to a very conſiderable ſum, as the time had been protracted as long as the law would allow, in order, if poſſible, to tire out the patience of the gentleman; which indeed was impoſſible, as he was determined to ſearch the affair to the bottom, regardleſs of expence.

An action now was brought againſt the gentleman by D——, for the recovery of 30l. for the ſaid bill, which was withdrawn, on the

the gentleman's paying him only five guineas, and the bill accordingly given up.

Almoſt immediately after the above, an affair happened which had like to have terminated with much worſe conſequences, and perhaps have brought him to his preſent unfortunate condition.

When he dealt in horſes, (at the time he lived in the Borough) at a fair in Oxfordſhire, he bargained for a ſtring, for which he paid, and alſo bid money for a hackney mare, which was not accepted of; but the next morning, when he went for the horſes he had bought, he, unknown to the owner, brought away the mare: when the farmer came to queſtion his ſervant about the mare, he told him, that our hero ſaid he had bought and paid for her with the others, and therefore he let him have her——a very ſhort enquiry made him acquainted who he was, and where he lived: he immediately took out a warrant, but ſome perſons then preſent told him, that he would certainly pay him for the mare, and deſired him to write to London, and draw upon him for the money, and gave him directions how. Our hero accepted the bill, but before it was due became a bankrupt. The farmer let the matter reſt

a long while, but getting advice that he was ſhining in great ſplendour, and that upon putting the warrant in force, he might even now get his money, he came up to London, got it backed in Middleſex, and apprehended poor *Jemmy*, who was had before Sir John. Terms had been propoſed by his conſtant backers, Meſſrs. Jenn——gs, the attorney, and R——pel, who keeps a bawdy-houſe tavern in the ſtrand, and had been a bailiff's follower; theſe *very worthy* gentlemen ſoftened the farmer, by offering him his demands for the mare, and alſo his expences; and thus was the felony compounded, and Jemmy again at large, to commit his depredations on the public.

Here was a lucky eſcape! but it was no warning. What muſt be, muſt be. Loſt to all ſenſe of ſhame, every feeling of humanity, he ſtill went on diſtreſſing the unfortunate, and abuſing the confidence of his friends; but what could be expected from a man devoid of every ſpark of gratitude and pity.

As yet he had generally traded on his own bottom, which having turned out but badly, he thought to have recourſe to another method, which, though not more honeſt, was nevertheleſs more ſafe.

Among

Among the number of priſoners, which he brought to his houſe, might have been found every trade and occupation fit for a new colony. He always (as is the cuſtom with bailiffs) made himſelf acquainted, by queſtions which he, or his follower, artfully put, with the circumſtances, buſineſs, method of living, and connections of his priſoners; by this means there was no ſpecies of fraud but he became maſter of, and played off upon the town.

A young gentleman of a good figure and addreſs, having run out his little patrimony, and got into his taylor's debt, to enable him to cut a figure, in order to marry a rich widow, being deceived in his hopes, was arreſted for his clothes, and brought to Shire-lane: his vices and juvenile folly having diſobliged his friends, who were people of worth and character, he was diſregarded, and no anſwer ſent to his repeated letters, to extricate him from his preſent difficulties: all his little wardrobe and trinkets ſoon left him to ſupply the demands of the houſe, and a bottle now and then to keep its maſter in good humour: at length, having reduced himſelf almoſt to his laſt ſhirt, he told our hero that he would trouble him no longer to keep him at his houſe; that his expectations were, he found,

vain,

vain, and that therefore the ſooner he went to priſon the better, for, if he ſtaid any longer, he could not promiſe him payment for what he might contract. Our hero then told him, he was ready to carry him to *Newgate* when he pleaſed. To Newgate? ſays he. Yes, replied the other, unleſs you get a *habeas*, for that is the county gaol.

Terrified with the thoughts of Newgate, he ſcarce could open his mouth, for he thought he was at liberty to go to the King's-Bench or Fleet, which the other remarking, he aggravated the deſcription given him of Newgate, and endeavoured to render it more horrid, if poſſible, than it really is: in theſe circumſtances he knew not what to do; he had not money to procure a *habeas*, which would coſt him near four pounds, and he thereon gave himſelf up to deſpair, not knowing what to do. Our hero availed himſelf of his ſituation, and told him he might yet be a made man, if he would take his advice. It is not to be doubted but the young gentleman was eager to know by what means he might extricate himſelf from his preſent confinement, and that alſo which he more dreaded, *Newgate*.

You are, ſays our hero, a good handſome, likely young fellow, and I dare ſay, if you had your liberty, might yet make your fortune; now if one was to get it you, could you be honeſt. He anſwered, his whole life ſhould be devoted to his ſervice. Why then, ſays he, I have thought of a ſcheme that might aſſiſt you: ſuppoſe one was to get you a carriage and horſes, and a houſe, with clothes and other things, I could recommend you to ſeveral tradeſmen that would truſt you with plate, jewels, wines, &c. theſe you might turn into ready money, and make a figure, and ten to one but in a very ſhort time you might be able to marry a woman of fortune, and ſo be the making of yourſelf, without the aſſiſtance of your relations, whoſe treatment of you has been ſo cruel.

The young gentleman was glad to accept of his propoſals, and indeed thought them honeſt, and told our humane hero he would be directed entirely by him, and, if ever he ſucceeded, would generouſly reward his good-nature.

Bail was therefore ſoon provided, for he had them always ready for any ſum; bail to the ſheriff, and bail above; and the gentle-

man

man was equipped with clothes, ſword, &c. a chariot hired, and one of our hero's men as a footman; by which means he acted in a double capacity, always being a ſpy upon his actions, which he conſtantly told his maſter. Plate, jewels, and other things of conſiderable value, were ſoon obtained from the different tradeſmen, and conſtantly removed immediately to Shire-lane to be diſpoſed of, and alſo as a ſecurity to his bail; numberleſs were the tradeſmen that were by this means defrauded, for it was every where given out, that he was a young gentleman of great fortune juſt come of age; he was not therefore more ready to order, than the people were to ſupply him; his figure, indeed, and addreſs, did not a litile contribute to the cheat, for no one would have ſuſpected a fraud under ſuch a maſk.

The affair of the marriage was never mentioned after he began this villainous trade; it was only a cloak to go upon; the goods were the chief point, and, by his being conſtantly egged on, and the proper places pointed out to him, who had been pre-informed of his conſequence, he amaſſed a vaſt quantity, which were all depoſited under the care of our hero; at length the bills began to pour in apace; words did for ſome time; but

words, however well ſpoken, will not always do: creditors began to be very clamorous, and the neighbourhood to be alarmed; every day things began to be worſe and worſe, and our hero, finding the market pretty well over, made the beſt uſe he could of him, and then his bail ſurrendered him up to priſon, where a number of actions for the goods he had obtained from the different tradeſmen were laid againſt him, and he, poor fellow, had no other conſolation, than to think he was made the dupe of a raſcal, and lament his own credulity, which had betrayed him into ſuch a ſcheme, to the ruin of his character with the world, and deſtroying whatever affection his relations might have for him; for, after an affair of this kind, he could hope for no friendſhip from them. It was too late now to repent, and wiſh he had gone to priſon a few weeks ſooner, and ſaved his then, compared to his preſent, unblemiſhed reputation: he now found the fallacy of the promiſes that had been made him, that bail ſhould always be ready, and he could take no revenge for the injury done for the property obtained from him; for having full confidence in him, he had (as he had been deſired) ſigned a bill and receipt for every parcel of goods, otherwiſe the other pleaded he could not juſtify himſelf in ſelling them again.

But

But, poor fellow, he has long ſince paid all his debts, in the great debt to nature, for, utterly abandoned by his relations, and deſpiſed by the world, he ſoon died of a broken heart, whilſt his inſtigator laughed at his credulity, and praiſed his own ingenuity, when he ſaw his maſſy ſide-board of plate, and other effects, purchaſed by the death of a condeſcending and amiable young man, and perhaps the ruin of ſeveral honeſt tradeſmen.

This project of putting young fellows into houſes, and enabling them to make an appearance, was carried on by him for ſome time, and with great ſucceſs, though he often complained they had (as Peachum ſays) an underhand way of diſpoſing of their goods; this is not to be wondered at, for he never gave them above ten per cent. for whatever they brought him, and as they ſet out with being villains, they very wiſely thought they alone ought to reap the harveſt of their own roguery; yet nevertheleſs he got a great deal of money from theſe ſchemes, for as he knew all their haunts, and could get a writ to catch them at any time, they were obliged very often to *let him in* on his own terms, by which means he made his market of them,

and the houſe in Shire-lane groaned with its load of ill-got wealth, conſiſting of cloth, both linen and woollen, of all ſorts, of plate, rings, watches, plated goods, pictures, wines; in ſhort, every thing that could be got, and would turn to money: but the town, by ſome very ſeaſonable advertiſements, getting alarmed at this trade, it was knocked on the head, at leaſt for a time, till the noiſe was a little blown over; in the mean while ſome other ſcheme muſt be ſet on foot: his genius was ſome time in labour, and at laſt was brought to-bed with a project, that he thought ſeemed to promiſe him very great things; but then he could not be on the ſpot to direct and ſuperintend, and it required a perſon of ſtrict honour and experience in buſineſs, which, among his friends, was very difficult to be met with.

This project was no other than ſending a perſon into the country to buy goods, and draw for the ſame upon an indigent tradeſman in London, one who was under his clutches, and therefore was obliged to comply with his demands: at length a fit man was found out, who, when properly equipped, was ſent into the country to draw bills for caſh or goods, but rather the latter, as then he would be ſure of the property in his own hands.

hands. No particular order was given for goods, as all was looked on as fiſh that came to their net.

Hampſhire was the place intended for beginning of buſineſs, and we ſhall therefore preſent our readers with a letter or two that was ſent to our hero by his *country agent*.

" I am ſurprized you can trifle with me ſo. " The bill I drew on L——, for the beer, is " returned me for want of acceptance. It is " immaterial, as my credit is ſo good here, " who the acceptor is, ſo that you do but " provide ſomebody. I had ordered a large " quantity of beer, and ſome wines, and they " were actually ſhipped; but the bills I drew " for them alſo are returned, for want of ac- " ceptance. I ſhall ſhift my quarters, as " this place will not do any longer, owing " entirely to your own behaviour. If you " can't place a confidence in me, all buſineſs " is at an end. You ſhall hear from me at " Exeter, to which place I am now going.

" Your's, &c."

" Since

" Since my laſt, I have thoughts of going
" to France, as, by the recommendations I
" have procured, I am ſure of ſucceeding:
" therefore do you provide for the reception
" of a large quantity of wines and brandy--
" I got caſh for a little bill yeſterday, which
" I drew on D——: take care that it is regu-
" larly paid, as I can then get what credit I
" want. Things wear a good face, and,
" unleſs ſomething unlucky falls out, we
" may eaſily make both our fortunes.

" Adieu!

" Your's, &c."

" Dear Sir,

" I have bought a pack of ſhalloons and
" ſome wines, both which will be at the
" White-Horſe Cellar Thurſday ſe'nnight.
" Pray pay attention to my bills in the ac-
" ceptance, and tell the people they ſhall
" be regularly taken up. Get others to
" draw on, if L—— and D—— won't ſtand
" it properly. All depends entirely upon
" their being accepted, as goods are crouded
" upon me.

" Your's, &c."

" Dear

" Dear Sir,

" I have got acquainted with a gentleman's " family here, and am much careſſed. I " drew a little bill, and got caſh for it of " the collectors here: let it be paid, and I " will *let 'em down* for a good round ſum. " Things go on ſmoothly. Send me ſome " orders for goods, made out in a tradeſman- " like manner, and I will get 'em executed. " My credit will be firmly eſtabliſhed by the " payment of the little bill on D——. Do " take care that it is paid, and a hundred " pound a week may be made where I now " am. In your letters to me, write *Eſquire* " after my name.

" Your's, &c."

" Dear Sir,

" Excellent ſucceſs this morning! I have " bought 20 pieces of ſhalloons, twelve " hogſheads of beer, beſides wine, and all " of them are on the road to London. You " ſee my promiſes are not wind. Let the " bills I have drawn on L—— and D—— be " accepted, and I can double the cargo be- " fore the month is expired, at which date " I drew 'em. If you but keep the ſecret,

" (for you are a curſt blab) we may make
" our fortunes, and no one know any thing
" about our ſchemes. I have another
" ſcheme in my head that will anſwer better
" than any thing we have done yet—at our
" next meeting I'll let you know all the
" particulars.

" Adieu!

" Your's ſincerely."

This trade was carried on for ſome time, and with good ſucceſs; but, like his other villainous projects, was found out, and an end put to it, at leaſt for the preſent.

Bailing now became a very great trade with him, and any perſon who could produce the ready caſh was always ſure to meet with his man on applying to our hero, who had a number ready for any ſum whatſoever—it was immaterial to them, whether for fifty or five thouſand, they would as ſoon ſwear to one as the other.

As ſeveral tradeſmen happened at times to fall into his clutches, he uſed, on being *tipp'd* a pre-

a preſent, to let them go on their words; and when he had a perſon at his houſe who wanted bail, and would *come down* handſomely, theſe tradeſmen were applied to, and obliged, through neceſſity, to do the office, or elſe they were no longer at large themſelves, by which means he got paid on both ſides. Sometimes indeed the ſums were too large for the tradeſmen to undertake, or, circumſtances conſidered, it was not proper for them to do it; he had therefore another ſet of men for the purpoſe, who were alſo retained by him, to make affidavits when neceſſary. Theſe people had no habitation whatſoever, and as to their buſineſs they did not chuſe that ſhould be public, and as it was commonly night-work they could eaſily attend the courts to do his buſineſs, without hindrance to their own.

Two of them whom he had equipped with clothes, &c. to appear in, to put in bail for a pretty large ſum, after having done their buſineſs at Weſtminſter, and received the price of their perjury, went to a public houſe near Covent-Garden to regale themſelves, and were taken up for a highway robbery, committed, took their tryals at the Old Bailey, (where ſeveral other indictments were lodged againſt them) were condemned

and executed, and our hero, as Sheriff's Officer, attended their execution, and ſaw them depart this life, and the clothes he had lent them to do his buſineſs in, become the perquiſite of *Squire Tullis* the hangman.

Our readers, who have not heard of theſe proceedings before, may perhaps wonder how ſuch people were admitted into a public court to ſwear themſelves worth perhaps two, three, and ſometimes five thouſand pounds; we will therefore explain this matter to them.

By the rules of the courts the plaintiff's attorney is to be ſerved with a notice of the time of putting in bail, and alſo the name, qualification, and place of reſidence of the ſaid bail, in order to his making enquiry concerning them, and alſo his objection, if he has any, in court. On opening the courts of a morning, or indeed whenever at leiſure, they make it a rule to do this buſineſs, that the perſons who attend to ſerve their friends may not be detained any longer than immediately neceſſary.

An opportunity is therefore taken (commonly on opening the court, as perhaps few attornies are preſent) to put in this ſham bail; enquiry

enquiry is then made for the plaintiff's attorney, whether he has been ſerved with a notice; the anſwer is, that he has, and, according to the uſual form, oath is made thereto, and the ſham bail is allowed, as there is no council employed to queſtion them.

Another method has been practiſed by them in a certain court, where they gave the attorney the names of two very capital men; the one a ſhip-builder, the other a rope-maker, men whoſe names to a piece of paper were good for ten thouſand: the attorney thought it needleſs to enquire about ſuch men, or indeed in court to object, or fee counſel, to queſtion them. Two men therefore appeared in court under the names of ſuch people, and juſtified for the ſum, and the party was bailed thereon, nor was the cheat found out till execution was ſued out, when it was proved that the gentlemen knew nothing about the affair, and that their names had been aſſumed to ſerve the purpoſes of villains—a very thin court is the time uſually made uſe of for this buſineſs, and, as few people attend to putting in bail, they are ſeldom in fear of not ſucceeding in their roguery.

Another

Another method of getting money, equally honeſt and curious, was put in practice by our hero, and was as follows:——A Mr. H———, who, through misfortunes, had ſeveral times been *caged* by him in Shire-Lane, and whoſe circumſtances and connections in life were minutely known by our hero, having taken *apartments* near Gray's-Inn, and furniſhed them in a very genteel manner, which coming to his knowledge, and that he had a good deal of other property alſo there, he ſet about getting poſſeſſion of the ſame, which he effected in the following manner:

In concert with a *very honeſt* gentleman (his worthy colleague in iniquity) Mr. P——, an attorney, he took out an action againſt the ſaid Mr. H——, and alſo entered an appearance to it under the name of J———, an attorney, who never did any buſineſs for the ſaid Mr. H——: a declaration was pretended to be delivered, and the courſe of the law was purſued to execution, and all unknown entirely to the ſaid Mr. H———; and when he was out of town took the opportunity to enter his apartments, and by virtue of the Sheriffs warrant of diſtreſs, in conſequence of ſuch execution, ſeized all the

the effects, and removed them to his houſe in Shire-Lane; and even when the ſaid Mr. H—— became acquainted with the affair, and demanded an inventory, he was refuſed, and the whole made plunder of by theſe very honeſt gentlemen; the court of King's-Bench has been moved againſt them, and an attachment granted: our hero indeed has nothing to fear on this head, and the other *honeſt* gentleman, it is ſuppoſed, will ſoon, by the manner he is going on, follow his companion, and be equally regardleſs of the conſequences, and the world will be rid of two of the greateſt raſcals it ever gave birth to.

The affair of Mrs. G—— is of ſo flagrant a nature that we cannot poſſibly paſs it over; it is as follows:

Mrs. G——, the wife of captain G——, was miſtreſs of an elegant houſe near Groſvenor-ſquare; during her huſband's abſence at ſea, ſhe contracted a debt of 30l. by a note of hand, or bill. Our hero was employed to arreſt her (who authorized him he can give the beſt information) which was accordingly done, and Mrs. G—— was brought to his houſe; but, upon conſideration of her giving him five guineas, and expending

ing ſome other ſums for treats, &c. ſhe was, agreeable to the phraſe of his learned ſeminary, *turned up*, i. e. let go. In about three days afterwads he diſpatched ſome of his hell-hounds to bring her back to this inquiſition. The conditions of her ſecond enlargement were not to be obtained at ſo eaſy a rate, about ten guineas more were extorted for the ſame laudable purpoſe; and, in order that ſhe might not abſcond, inſtead of a bail-bond a warrant to confeſs judgment againſt her effects was filled up and executed, and ſome ſham note of 40l. given her as a further advance on her goods. In ſhort, he immediately poſſeſſed himſelf of all her effects, and proceeded to a diſpoſal. The poor woman, ſtung with remorſe at finding herſelf thus tricked and robbed (in deſpair it is ſaid) ſet fire to her houſe, but, being timely diſcovered, it was extinguiſhed before much damage was done, and the goods were all moved to Shire-lane; the woman apprehended and committed to Newgate. During her impriſonment captain G—— returned from ſea. I need not deſcribe his ſituation, or the intenſeneſs of his agonies, all who are huſbands can feel every degree of his anguiſh! all who are wives her treble portion of ſorrow! to meet a huſband under ſuch unhappy circumſtances! dreadful reverſe of long

expected

expected happineſs! Perhaps the reader will think it impoſſible to aggravate the circumſtances attending this robbery and intended murder; but our hero was too well verſed in all the diſtreſſing qualities that hell can deviſe, to turn a villainy out of his hands callow or naked, full-fledged crimes, that ſoar above the reach of human belief, were actions worthy his notice. Mrs. G—— at preſent received one conſolation, that of an affectionate huſband ſympathiſing in her diſtreſs, preparing proper advice for her ſafety, and by every art of conjugal affection unloading her mind of the weight of that affliction under which ſhe groaned. Our hero now began to fear that the activity of Mr. G——, added to the juſtice of his cauſe, might prevail againſt his villainy; he therefore laid a ſcheme to ſtop his aſſiduities in behalf of his wife, and, ſome few days before her trial came on, he prevailed on a woman to arreſt captain G——, which was accordingly done, and the poor diſtracted man brought to the houſe in S——e-lane, under the mortifying circumſtances of being hourly inſulted by the miſcreants who were to ſwear his wife's life away. Figure to yourſelf, reader, the accumulated miſery heaped on this unhappy couple. Mrs. G—— was convicted, but, from the unparalelled cruelty

of her caſe, received his Majeſty's free pardon. There is another little appendage tack'd to this buſineſs which we cannot paſs over in ſilence; one J—— H—— was a party concerned in the note which Mrs. G—— was originally arreſted for; our hero likewiſe arreſted *him*, ſtripped him of every ſhilling he could extort, took his note of hand for the reſidue, and let him go, which note became due in a few days, when he was arreſted again, and again ſtript of his all.

We ſhall now proceed to relate a piece of buſineſs, the cruelty of which ſurpaſſes even the former, and can hardly be paralelled.

We have already mentioned his extenſive connections with the *fair*; among the number of his acquaintance was one who had plighted her faith to a ſailor, who returned to her with his breaſt full of love, and his pockets lined with gold (between three and four hundred pounds); ſhe conſulted our hero on this affair, who adviſed her to perſuade her lover to return to ſea, as the ſum he was in poſſeſſion of could not be ſufficient to ſet up a public houſe (that being their intention,) and then, ſays he, you will have his money to take care of, and we will ſpend it joyouſly together; ſhe weakly followed his advice,

advice, and eaſily prevailed on her ſailor to return to an element leſs faithleſs than the nymph he left behind him.

Our hero got immediate poſſeſſion of the gold which he ſoon made away with, and, growing tired of her fondneſs, began to treat her, not only coolly, but rather barbarouſly, which ſhe expoſtulating with him on, and reminding him alſo of the money he obtained by her means, he, to prevent the repetition of hearing ſo diſagreeable a ſubject, got a perſon (for he had always people at hand for that purpoſe) to ſwear a debt againſt her, for which ſhe was arreſted and confined in the Fleet, where ſhe ſuffered every inconvenience of want and wretchedneſs, (juſt reward for her infidelity, though what ſhe had no right to feel from his hands,) and, after lingering for ſome time, ſhe died a wretch indeed.

Soon after her death, her ſailor returned from ſea; and coming to the knowledge of her infidelity, and unhappy fate, became delirious, from which unhappy ſtate he is not long relieved, and now obtains a wretched ſubſiſtance by ſkinning dead dogs and cats about the ſtreets, his diſorder having affected

him ſo much as to render him utterly incapable of the duties of a ſeaman.

Numbers of attornies, both of the courts of King's-Bench and Common-Pleas, have been made acquainted with his tricks by the trouble he has given them.

A Mr. B——, an attorney not far from Warwick-lane, employed him to arreſt Co— P—— for one hundred pounds, which the defendant immediately paid into the hands of our conſcientious hero, who never accounted for the ſame to the ſaid Mr. B——, who, coming to the knowledge of the payment of the ſaid ſum, ſued the Sheriffs, and recovered the ſaid hundred pounds, and the ſecurities of our champion were obliged to make it good: this was a cutting reflection; but, however, he remembered that he had not given a receipt for the hundred pounds when the defendant paid him, and therefore took out another action againſt him for a hundred pounds, but alas! he was too cunning for himſelf; a perſon, whom he had forgot, happened to be preſent when the money was paid him, ſo he was obliged to ſit down with the fruſtration of his ſcheme and the payment of the coſts; but that gave him little uneaſineſs, as he uſed to ſay, that

if a man would get money he ſhould not be afraid of running a riſque.

The numberleſs frauds he had committed, and was daily committing, rouſed the public from its lethargy, and a gentleman whom he had moſt villainouſly abuſed ſtood forth, and made known ſeveral of his tricks, and as Mr. Wilkes was appointed Sheriff, and promiſed to redreſs the many grievances that naturally fell under his cognizance as Sheriff, the character of our hero was diſplayed to him in its proper colours, who, although he has humanity to feel for any man's misfortunes, yet thought it an injury to the community to continue him any longer in an office which he had ſo very much abuſed, and he was therefore refuſed the renewal of his bonds, though every artifice and recommendation, that money could procure, was made uſe of. Mr. Wilkes knew the world too well, and was not to be dup'd into ſo great an error of judgment as to ſuffer him, after ſuch plain proofs of his villainy, to tyrannize any longer over the unfortunate, under the ſanction of being his officer.

This was a fatal ſtroke to his ſchemes; without power, he knew he ſhould ſoon want friends, and nothing could equal that of

a Sheriff's officer in a land like this, whoſe commerce (ſo very extenſive) cannot be carried on without an almoſt unlimited credit: he could indeed have been in an inferior ſtation, and done buſineſs in the M—rſh—l's ———, but that was ſo infamous, that even *our* hero would not ſtoop to it.

He had now, by his plundering all who came into his clutches, and detaining of monies which he received for ſeveral attornies, amaſſed a pretty conſiderable ſum, and the office of City Marſhal becoming vacant, he turned his eyes towards it, thinking it a moſt eligible ſituation; and, as it was to be by purchaſe, thought as he could raiſe the money, and had recommendations from ſeveral perſons in trade, who hoped to be benefited by his getting the place, that he could not fail of ſucceſs. Will not our readers be aſtoniſhed when they are told, that a man who had behaved as a Sheriff's officer in the manner he had done, whoſe character was ſo infamous that his name was always mentioned when a perſon meant any thing ſuperlatively wicked; I ſay, will they not be ſurpriſed that he ſhould even be admitted to pay the purchaſe money into the hands of the Chamberlain of the City of London,

London, and to want no other requiſite for entering into office but the approbation of the Court of Aldermen? What an excellent City Marſhal! how capable to regulate diſorderly public houſes, ſuppreſs illegal meetings, ſtop the propagation of vice and debauchery among the inferior orders in the City of London, prevent irregularity, and remove the nuiſances therein!

But Mr. H———, to whom the public is very much obliged for bringing his villainies to light, by a very ſeaſonable letter, addreſſed to the Court of Aldermen, ſoon cut the thread of his ambition; for, like the faithful guardians of a people, they were unanimouſly of opinion, that ſuch a man was in every ſenſe improper for the office; and that the permitting him to purchaſe it would reflect the higheſt diſhonour on the City, and its officers in general.

This was a ſtroke he little expected; he had ſet himſelf down as cock-ſure of the place, and thought nothing could intervene to prevent him; but here he reckoned without his hoſt. The Court of Aldermen were not like the clerks in a Sh——'s office, they were not to be bribed to wink at the villainies of any man, more eſpecially in a caſe like

like his, where every requiſite was wanting; that he was an utter ſtranger to. All his attempts to ſucceed were fruitleſs; he attempted to reply, but to no purpoſe—facts are ſtubborn things, and the more he endeavoured to exculpate himſelf, the worſe he made of the affair, and he was obliged to ſit down contented, and wait ſome more favourable opportunity of wriggling himſelf into place, and of courſe into power.

A Serjeant at Mace for one of the Compters being about to reſign, he had ſome notion of that place, for he thought it beſt to be doing of ſomething. *Aut Cæſar aut nullus*, was not his motto; he would, if he could, get money any way, never chuſing to let his talents lye idle; but in this he was foiled: his character in the city was become ſo notorious that his recommendation would not have got a man credit for a roll and cheeſe; and what added to his mortification, his creditors, and thoſe he had defrauded, finding a ſum of money in the hands of the Chamberlain, to purchaſe the place of City Marſhal, immediately attached it, and thus was our poor hero quite in the ſuds; his money attached, and his name held out as infamous to all the town, to prevent their falling a dupe to his iniquitous ſchemes: this

was

was what he never could have expected, having reigned ſo long deſpotically, and alſo ſucceſsfully, he thought no one durſt attempt either the one or the other; but he found his miſtake; the lion's ſkin was ſtripped off of him, and plainly ſhewed the aſs—and who fears a muzzled maſtiff?

We ſhall paſs over his intended ſcheme of a bankruptcy, as ſoon as he was inducted in the place of city marſhal, nor ſhall we mention his numberleſs frauds on Capt. D——, Mr. G——, Mr. M— C——, and numberleſs others. The affair concerning the effects of Mr. M——z the auctioneer, and his ill-uſage of Mrs. T——, alone would fill this pamphlet, nor would a couple of volumes be ſufficient to recite the numberleſs cruelties and deceits he has practiſed on the public. In this laſt affair, a very worthy and active magiſtrate has taken the part of the diſtreſſed, and it is not doubted but his partners in that helliſh ſcheme will meet with condign puniſhment, though the moſt rigorous this country affords can never be adequate to their crimes, as it is allowed on all hands, that—hanging is too good for them.

As the offence, for which he now lies under ſentence of death, has engaged the at-

tention of the public, we ſhall therefore preſent them with a particular detail thereof; and, in order to which, it will be proper we ſhould give them ſome account of a Mr. P—, from whom he received the note.

Mr. P— was ſome time a ſervant to a late Lord Chancellor, (who procured him a ſmall place in the Stamp-O——) and lived in Portugal-ſtreet, where he was burnt out, and, in conſequence of the very generous preſents to him from ſeveral of the nobility, through the recommendation of his late maſter, he was enabled to go into buſineſs as a grocer, or rather chandler's ſhop, near Southampton-row, Bloomſbury, which he left, and went into that of a hackney-man, (*i. e.* keeping job carriages and horſes): in his dealings, though very honeſt, yet, through the credit he gave, he was ſometimes in difficulties, and our hero *had* him at his houſe for an inconſiderable ſum, but which he could not at that time pay. This was a good opportunity for our hero, who told P—, if he would give him a note for ſecurity, he might have his liberty, for that it was a ſhame for a man in trade to be detained, and loſe his credit, for ſuch a trifle: this he accepted, and gave a note, which note was preſented to him when due, but not being able to take it up, he gave a larger,

larger, which was diſcounted to take up the former; and ſo he went on, till he was ſo far in the *mud* that a bankruptcy was the conſequence of it, when no leſs, it is ſaid, than to the amount of three thouſand pounds in notes appeared at his commiſſion, and all obtained from him by our active hero.

It was from the above Mr. P—— he received the note of hand for one hundred pounds, on which he made the forgery: it was payable from Thomas B—— to Samuel P——, or order. But to proceed; a note of fifty pounds, which he had from another quarter, coming due, and the party not being able to pay it, acquainted our hero thereof, who told him, if he would get this note diſcounted, meaning that of P—, for a hundred pounds, he would take it up: he promiſed to uſe his endeavours, and appointed to meet our hero at a tavern in the city to dinner, and bring him ſome good news: here it was he produced the note, with his own name indorſed on the back of it, when L—— (one of the perſons preſent, and whoſe note of 50l. which had been lent to B——, was to be taken up) ſaid, why now you have ſpoilt the note, for nobody will diſcount it with your d—n'd name on the back. J—n, the other, who was by, with his penknife

ſcratched out his ſirname all to the firſt letter, when our hero, inſtead of his own name, wrote that of B—nks, and ſaid he was a priſoner at his houſe, and he was ſure he could take the liberty with him. It is true there was a priſoner at that time at his houſe, and who now is in the Fleet, whoſe ſirname was ſuch, but his chriſtian name did not at all correſpond.

With this indorſement, the note was diſcounted, (by the holder of it, when he was convicted, Mr. F—— L—— Car——x) when it became due, it was preſented to Mr. B—, but he, as well as Mr. P—, who is now in the Fleet, were become inſolvent, and therefore could not anſwer it: Mr. Car——x then applied to Mr. L——, who brought him the note to diſcount, and told him he expected he ſhould aſſiſt him in recovering his money.

Mr. L——, on this, ſent a perſon with the note to our hero, acquainting him, that as payment could not be had of either Meſſrs. B—— or P——, he muſt take up the note; in anſwer to which he ſaid, they might arreſt the ſaid B—— and P——, and that he ſhould give himſelf no concern about it: a ſecond meſſage was ſent him, and the ſame anſwer returned: at length Mr. L—— ſent him

him word, that unleſs he immediately took up the note, he would blow the whole affair; to which he very politely ſaid, that they might go and be da—d, and deſired he might not be troubled any more about it.

Mr. Car——x, the holder of the bill, was therefore adviſed to put it in the hands of a magiſtrate, as the forgery had been explained to him, which he accordingly did, and a warrant was made out againſt our hero by Sir John F——, which when he was made acquainted with, he raiſed the money, and ſent it to Mr. Car——x, who received it, and gave a memorandum of the payment; at the ſame time wrote a line to the magiſtrate that he was ſatisfied, and deſired the note might be delivered up, but the magiſtrate (after oath being made of the forgery) could not poſſibly return it, and, well knowing the character of our hero, inſiſted upon his being indicted for the ſame; and an attorney, Mr. Le—i, being preſent, whoſe client had been defrauded by our hero, undertook to proſecute, and bring him to condign puniſhment: he was therefore accordingly apprehended, and committed to the Poultry Compter.

Though things were come to this paſs, and the fact was felony by the law, yet he took

took out a *habeas corpus*, and moved the court of King's Bench for leave to put in bail, but it was refuſed, and he remanded back, from whence he came to wait the trial at the next ſeſſions to be held at the Old-Bailey: his ſpirits never left him, ſtill thinking that, however he might have erred, he had money and friends enough to *bring him through*; he therefore made light of the affair to his acquaintance, and, from a lenity ſhewn him, was not removed to Newgate till the day before the ſeſſions began, in order to take his trial, and even then was not in irons, though his offence was capital—ſuch power has gold!

He was ſtill led on to believe that he ſhould be acquitted—that nothing would hurt him; but he was ſoon convinced of the fallacy of this advice, for after a hearing, in which the evidences were very clear, the jury, without much heſitation, brought him in guilty, and two more indictments were ready, had he not been capitally convicted on this: he made no ſort of defence when called on, but ſaid that all his friends were in the country.

Is it not ſurprizing that a man, whoſe character ſome people have endeavoured to clear from the guilt with which it is charged, and

and to whom they have aſcribed ſuch amiable qualities, as good-nature and tenderneſs to thoſe whom he arreſted, ſhould not, among the number of people with whom he was connected, meet with one to appear, or ſay a good word, for him? Yet ſuch was the caſe, nay more; the court, though cruel, when the verdict was brought in, even *murmurred* applauſe: indeed his dealings and behaviour had been ſo very flagrant, that all attempts to have appeared for his character would have been fruitleſs, or only ſerved to make things worſe, and were, it is ſuppoſed, for that reaſon avoided.

What a mortifying reflection to a man of any feeling, to think that all good men were his foes, and that he never had any friends, but ſuch as were ſo through fear or intereſt, and whoſe whole tenor of behaviour through life had been ſuch, that even when he was found guilty of death, a circumſtance that generally draws tears from the ſpectators, yet they even expreſſed a ſatisfaction at the puniſhment he fell under: indeed, ſince his condemnation, he begins to feel the force of reflection, and laments (though too late for his happineſs on this ſide eternity) his miſſpent life, and moſt humbly ſupplicates of all his acquaintance, whom curioſity, or what

other motive, may bring to that diſmal habitation, their forgiveneſs for the many injuries he has done them.

Since his condemnation, he had ſome thoughts of moving an arreſt of judgment, and a note was ſent to his council (Mr. C—) on that head, who returned him for anſwer, that as there were other indictments againſt him, and of a more flagrant nature, he adviſed him to let it reſt as it did, for a reverſe of the judgment could be of no ſervice to him: he has therefore uſed all the intereſt he is maſter of, and that his ill-got wealth can produce; and Mrs. B—— has preſented a petition to a very great perſonage, but it is thought that the univerſal bad character which he bears among all ranks of people, will prevent (if there was any ſuch intention, and his caſe would admit of it,) the extenſion of the royal clemency towards him.

As he has not now the moſt diſtant proſpect of a reprieve, and therefore length of life, we ſincerely wiſh he may ſo employ the few moments he has left, in imploring forgiveneſs of an offended deity, that at the divine tribunal he may meet that mercy, which, by the moſt ſacred word, is promiſed to the repentant ſinner.

BRITISH MUSEUM

The END.